

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana is a key supplier of U.S. grown rice, producing more than 3 billion pounds annually; and

WHEREAS, rice is the staple grain for most of the population of the world, and the significance of rice cannot be overemphasized; and

WHEREAS, the United States produces more than 22 billion pounds annually; and

WHEREAS, rice is vital to the economic stability of rice farmers and millers in Arkansas, California, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas; and

WHEREAS, intense research and development in rice technology has resulted in rice farmers in this nation producing some of the highest yields of rice per acre, making such rice one of the most land-efficient and cost-efficient crops grown; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the largest exporters of rice, as this nation exports rice to more than ninety countries and supplies more than 13 percent of the rice for world trade; and

WHEREAS, millions of people in this nation, as well as countless people in other countries, enjoy rice in a variety of forms, including the use of rice as an edible grain, in flour, bran, cooking oil, cereals, rice cakes and health food snacks; and

WHEREAS, rice is an important source of nutritional value, as rice provides an excellent source of complex carbohydrates, contains only a trace of fat, and is cholesterol-free and sodium-free; and

WHEREAS, rice is recognized world wide as an economical food and an important part of feeding the expanding population in Third World nations; and

WHEREAS, rice provides an important contribution to the diet, to the economy of this nation, and to the nourishment of other countries; and

WHEREAS, rice farmers of this nation represent a key element in the enhancement of habitat for waterfowl such as ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and others; and

WHEREAS, the harvest of rice in this nation is celebrated each September.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim September 2006, as

LOUISIANA RICE MONTH

and encourage all citizens to participate in appropriate ceremonies and activities.

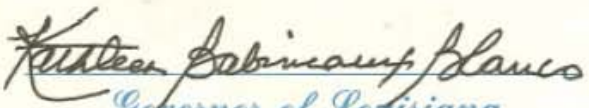


Attest By
The Governor



Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 15th day of August
A.D., 2006


Governor of Louisiana